

TURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TURTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Sixteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Urban District of Turton, together with a summary of sanitary work done during 1937.

The District comprises an area of 17,335 acres.

The population is not a growing one as the census of 1931 gave it as 11,847, and the Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1936, 11,390.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 was 3,623.

The Rateable Value was £72,084, a penny rate yields a sum of £285.

The social conditions and standard of living are equal to the average of a mainly industrial community.

EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Insured population was 3,263.

The average weekly unemployed was 261=8 per cent.

The chief employment is in Textile Manufactures, Bleachworks, Dyeworks and Stone Quarries. Men working at the Stone Quarries are subject to Silicosis. They undergo a medical examination periodically by Government Inspectors and they get compensation if they are found to be suffering from Silicosis.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply comes from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks. It is uniformly regular, is of good quality, and sufficient in quantity in the parts of the District where the supply reaches, but there are parts of the District which cannot get a supply from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks as the water mains do not extend to all parts of the District.

There is occasional liability to lead solvency due to the peaty character of the gathering ground, but the water is submitted to analysis and every possible precautionary method is adopted at the source by the Bolton Corporation to maintain its purity.

The majority of the houses in the District take their supply from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks, but a number on account of their situation are obliged to be dependant upon shallow wells.

Fifteen houses in the Bradshaw District get their water supply from the Bury and District Joint Water Board as they are situated near the Bury water mains.

The Sewerage system of the District is working in a satisfactory manner.

The sewage from the Egerton and Eagley Wards is conveyed to the Eagley Sewage Works where it is treated by the activated sludge principle. The works has a capacity of 268,650 gallons, an approximate yearly flow of 120 million gallons.

The sewage from Belmont Ward is conveyed to the Belmont Sewage Works. It is treated by septic tanks and cinder filtration. The works are capable of treating 21,469 gallons and the approximate yearly flow is 13 million gallons.

The sewage from the Edgworth, Chapeltown, and Bradshaw Wards is conveyed to the Bolton Corporation sewer at Bradshaw and is dealt with by the Bolton Corporation.

In those portions of the district where there is no main sewer, the sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools which are under supervision.

The Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee only send an analysis of sewage effluents, when the effluent has been classified as unsatisfactory or bad. I have had no reports from them during the year, so the effluents from the Sewage Works of the district have been satisfactory.

The scavenging of the whole district is carried out by the District Council.

The ashpits and ashbins are emptied during the day and the refuse is carried to waste lands in suitable localities.

I append below a list of the various conversions during the year and the past five years—

	1937.		Past five years.
Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	14	.....	225
Privy Closets to Pails	11	.....	17
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets...	6	.....	16
Pails to Fresh Water Closets	1	.....	17
Houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	41	.....	289

All new houses are provided with fresh water closets. There were—

2175 Fresh Water Closets in the District at the end of 1937.

1597 Waste Water Closets.

251 Privy Middens.

391 Closets attached to these Privy Middens.

261 Earth or Pail Closets.

1564 Galvanised Bins.

During the year 45,846 ashbins and pails have been cleansed, and 3,176 privy middens and ashpits.

Number of Privies and Ashpits found defective	41
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,, Privies and Ashpits repaired	41
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To be able to carry on the conversion of the remaining privy closets in the district the sewers of the district will have to be extended as the majority of the remaining privy closets have no sewer in their vicinity. The Council have this matter under consideration.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number on Register : Dairies, 107. Cowsheds, 180.

Number of Retail Producers	62
,, Wholesale Producers who also sell Retail	23
,, Wholesale Producers	22
,, Wholesale Traders (not producers)	Nil.
,, Retail Traders (not Producers)	4
,, Retail Producers under Accredited License	2
,, Wholesale Producers under Accredited License	2
,, Inspections of Cowsheds	364
,, Inspections of Dairies	156
,, Cowsheds limewashed	180
,, Cowshed Drains found defective	8
,, Cowshed Drains repaired	5
,, Cowshed Drains reconstructed	3
,, Cowsheds provided with additional light and ventilation	2

Number of Cowsheds repaired	5
„ New Cowsheds provided	1
„ Preliminary Notices issued on Tenants	9
„ Preliminary Notices issued on Owners	2
„ Preliminary Notices abated by Tenants	7
„ Preliminary Notices abated by Owners	2
„ Water supplies repaired	2

During the year there have been no cases of Infectious Disease notified of persons engaged in the production or handling of milk.

There have been no cases of Anthrax confirmed in any milk-kitting farm during the year.

MILK SUPPLIED TO SCHOOLS.

Thirty-two samples of milk were taken from eight schools in the Turton area supplied by nine farms of 214 cows.

Two of these samples were found to contain Tubercle Baccilli. The animals found to be giving Tubercular milk were slaughtered.

TUBERCULOUS MILK.

During the year I received 16 notifications from the County Medical Officer of Health that samples of milk taken by Public Health Inspectors in Bolton from milk supplied by farms in the District contained Tubercle Baccilli. Mr. Dawson, our Sanitary Inspector, in company with Mr. John Adamson, Veterinary Surgeon to the Lancashire County Council, visited these farms and took 78 samples of Mixed and Unmixed Milk from 209 cows.

These samples were taken by Mr. Dawson to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, for examination.

As a result of these examinations six cows were found to be giving Tubercular milk. These cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, and slaughtered at Bolton Public Abbatoir.

The following is a summary of the above Inspection and Tests—

Number of Cows Tested	423
„ Cows giving Tubercular Milk	6
„ Cows Slaughtered	6

MILK PRODUCED UNDER ACCREDITED LICENCES.

Eighteen samples of Mixed Milk were taken from four farms producing milk under the Milk Order, 1936.

Two of these samples did not satisfy the Methylen Blue Test, and the two farms were sampled a week later. They were then found to be satisfactory and in compliance with the conditions of their licences.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register : 8.

The Sanitary Inspector made 735 visits to the Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops in the district during the year. They were found to be in a satisfactory condition and were kept clean and whitewashed.

The following list of animals were examined—

Calves	13	Sheep	1295
Beasts	459	Pigs	113

1,560 lbs. of Meat and Offals were found to be diseased, this the owners immediately surrendered and it was destroyed.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register : 18.

Number of Notices issued on Tenants for limewashing	4
„ Notices issued on Owners for linewashing	1
„ Notices abated	5
„ Drains found defective ..	1
„ Drains repaired	1
„ Drains reconstructed	Nil.

FRIED FISH AND CHIPPED POTATO SHOPS.

Number in District : 12.

The Sanitary Inspector made 30 visits to these shops. They were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The provisions of this Act are administered by the County Police.

The following are the particulars of samples purchased during 1937—

Descriptions of sample.	No. of samples.	Result of analysis.
Milk	26	Genuine.
Tea	1	Genuine.
Cocoa	1	Genuine.
Butter	3	Genuine.
Coffee	1	Genuine.
Lard	2	Genuine.
Lancashire Cheese	2	Genuine.
Ground Ginger	2	Genuine.
Ground Almonds	1	Genuine.
White Pepper	1	Genuine.
	—	
	40	
	—	

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Number of Observations : 27.

Number of Legal Proceedings : 0.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is three minutes for half-an-hour.

TENTS AND VANS, ETC., USED AS DWELLINGS.

During the year six Vans and eleven Tent Dwellings were found in the District.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified or detected in any of the vans or tents during the year.

SANITARY WORK.

Number of Inspections made	2617
„ Re-inspections made	2830
„ Statutory Notices served	65
„ Statutory Notices abated	66
„ Statutory Notices outstanding or in hand or in progress of abatement	6

Number of Preliminary Notices served	173
,, Preliminary Notices abated	171
,, Preliminary Notices outstanding at the end of 1936	7
,, Smoke Tests applied to house drains	66
,, Houses affected by the tests	66
,, House drains found defective	29
,, Main drains repaired	24
,, Main drains reconstructed	4
,, House drains cleaned or repaired	50
,, House drains reconstructed	14
,, House drains trapped	19
,, Downspouts disconnected or inlets at foot of same trapped	19
,, Ventilation shafts fixed	18
,, Soil pipes repaired	4
,, Slop Waste pipes repaired	23
,, Yard surfaces repaired or flagged	24
,, Downspouts repaired	28
,, Visits paid to refuse tips	119
,, Smoke observations taken	27
,, Houses fumigated	26
,, Schools fumigated	Nil.
,, Domestic water supplies found defective	Nil.
,, New domestic water supplies provided	Nil.
,, Samples of water taken and submitted to Analyst	1

During the year 42 New Houses have been erected by private enterprise.

Each of these houses were provided with a fresh water closet and a covered galvanized ashbin.

The drainage system of each house was smoke tested before being filled in.

The total number of houses in the district is reduced by 4 as this number is accounted for by the absorption of 3 Back-to-Back Houses in making 6 Back-to-Back Houses into 3 Through Houses, and the demolition of 1 House.

THE SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the District were periodically inspected and when required fumigated. The water supply and sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory. The milk supplied was under supervision. No schools were closed during the year on account of Infectious Diseases.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but suitable arrangements have been made with the Bury and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board and the Darwen Isolation Hospital to take infectious cases occurring in the District.

Two beds are reserved at the Bury Hospital for cases of Smallpox and an unlimited number of beds at the Darwen and Bury Hospitals for other infectious cases.

These arrangements are equal to the requirements of the District and have proved to be very satisfactory in operation.

There are four Nursing Associations in the District, each has one District Nurse. Three of these nurses attend Maternity cases.

The District has the use of the Bolton Infirmary Ambulance and the Bolton Corporation Ambulance. The service is satisfactory and sufficient for the needs of the District.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is a Public Swimming Bath in the Egerton Ward owned by the Turton Urban District Council. The Bath is provided with a Bell's Bath Filtration Plant. This plant is working very satisfactorily.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Number of Houses of all classes	3643
,, Working class dwelling houses	3439
,, Working class dwelling houses erected	33
,, Houses over £20 Rateable Value erected	9
1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	482
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	684

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	74
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	76
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	25
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	47
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—	
(a) By owners	13
(b) By local authority in default of owners	1
C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil,
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during the year was 30 as against 33 for 1936.

Nine cases were sent to Hospitals.

The cost of Hospital Treatment was £226.

The cost of Hospital Treatment for 1936 was £207 5s. 0d.

The following is a list of the Acute Infectious Diseases Notified—

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	19	6	0
Diphtheria	3	3	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0
Pneumonia and Influenza Pneumonia	6	0	4
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Smallpox	0	0	0
	30	9	5

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 19 cases during the year as against 13 for 1936.

There were no deaths.

The cases were distributed through the district in the following manner—

Eagley Ward	1	Bromley Cross Ward ...	5
Edgworth Ward	6	Bradshaw Ward	2
Egerton Ward	3	Chapeltown Ward	1
Belmont Ward	1		

DIPHTHERIA.

There were three cases during the year. There was one death.

The cases occurred in the following Wards—

Bradshaw Ward 2

Eagley Ward 1

The Lancashire County Council make a grant of three pounds for each case of Infectious Disease sent into an approved hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The new cases and mortality were as follows—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10-15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
25-35	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-45	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
45-55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0
	3		4		1		0	

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited. The houses and premises are inspected, the social and domiciliary conditions noted and auxiliary assistance is given when necessary. Insanitary conditions are remedied if found. The houses are fumigated when it is required and all necessary measures are taken in order to prevent the spreading of infection.

Pathological specimens which require Bacteriological examination are sent to the University of Manchester Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine. During the year twelve throat swabs were examined one was positive. One specimen of blood was examined for Typhoid Fever with a negative result.

Insulin was supplied to four people suffering from Diabetes. Two hundred and thirty tubes of 5 c.c. each were supplied.

The year's record is very satisfactory from a health point of view. The health of the District on the whole has been good. The number of Infectious Diseases notified was very much below the average.

The chief requirements of the District are—

1. A HOUSING SCHEME.

The Council are proceeding with a scheme to build 120 houses for the working classes.

2. AN EXTENSION OF THE MAIN SEWERS IN THE DISTRICT.

The Council are giving this matter their attention.

3. MAKING UP OF UNPAVED STREETS.

Many of the private streets in the District are in a very bad state of repair. This causes great inconvenience to the general public.

This report does not include the vital statistics of the District as I have not yet received them from the Registrar General. When I do I will issue them in the form of a supplement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HAROLD ROBINSON L.M.S.S.A.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ROCKFIELD,
DUNSCAR,
March, 1938.

TURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Supplement to the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	118 ...	57 ...	61 ...	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated
Illegitimate	2 ...	1 ...	1 ...	resident population 10.6
	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
Total	120 ...	58 ...	62 ...	births 69
Stillbirths	9 ...	7 ...	2 ...	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated
Deaths	154 ...	73 ...	81 ...	resident population *13.6

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000 Total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	33
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

	PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Population, 11,260.							
Mean 5 years, 1932-1936	10.5 ...	13.5 ...	0.48 ...	1.89 ...	Nil. ...	Nil. ...	54
Year 1936	10.2 ...	13.9 ...	0.43 ...	2.10 ...	Nil. ...	Nil. ...	34
Year 1937	10.6 ...	*13.6 ...	0.17 ...	2.13 ...	Nil. ...	Nil. ...	33

Increase or decrease
in 1937 on 5 years'

average, 1932-1936...	+0.1 ...	+0.1 ...	-0.31 ...	+0.24 ...	Nil. ...	Nil. ...	-21
Previous year	+0.4 ...	-0.3 ...	-0.26 ...	+0.03 ...	Nil. ...	Nil. ...	-1

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.99)=13.4 per 1,000.

HAROLD ROBINSON, L.M.S.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

May, 1938.

